Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a call request message;

challenging a device that originated the call request message to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

authenticating the call request message based on the authentication result, whereby an authentic originating client is identified; and

searching a database to find a predetermined client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client, whereby the call is authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and the call is not authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is not obtained.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

inserting the client billing tag into the call request message; and

transmitting the call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~challenging~~ authenticating includes performing a calculation using a hash algorithm.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising evaluating a profile of the second client, the profile including information corresponding to at least one calling feature activated by the second client.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a server inserts the client billing tag corresponding to the second client into the call request message based on the at least one calling feature.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the server transmits the call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag corresponding to the second client is inserted into the call request message.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein a gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag.

9. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

10. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evaluating at least one calling feature activated by the second client;

determining the authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature;

retrieving the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client; and

inserting the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client into the call request message.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein a server transmits the call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the call request message.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

adding a header to the call request message, the header including a server identifier; and

transmitting the call request message to a gateway, the gateway being configured to complete the call if the header is detected and not complete the call if the header is not detected.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking the call request message for the presence of a header, the header including a server identifier; and

completing the call if the header is detected.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not detected.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a SIP-telephone.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a network gateway.

21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to an enterprise gateway.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP voicemail server.

23. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP conferencing server.

24. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a DAL gateway.

25. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a client PBX system.

26. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a personal computer.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a call request message;

challenging a device that originated the call request message to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

authenticating the call request message based on the authentication result, whereby an authentic originating client is identified; and

searching a database to find a predetermined client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client, whereby the call is authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is obtained, and the call is not authorized to be completed if the client billing tag is not obtained.

28. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a SIP call request message;

challenging a device that originated the SIP call request message to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

authenticating the SIP call request message based on the authentication result, whereby an authentic originating client is identified;

searching a database to find a client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client;

inserting the client billing tag into the SIP call request message; and

transmitting the SIP call request message to the gateway.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein a server completes the call if the client billing tag is obtained, and does not complete the call if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein a gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag and call statistics after receiving the SIP call request message from a server.

31. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a SIP call request message from the first client;

challenging a device that originated the SIP call request message to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself;

evaluating at least one calling feature in a profile of the second client;

determining an authentic originating client based on the at least one calling feature and the authentication result;

retrieving the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client; and

inserting the client billing tag into the SIP call request message.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein a server transmits the SIP call request message to a gateway after the client billing tag is inserted into the SIP call request message.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the gateway provides a network operating support system with the client billing tag and at least one call statistic after the call is completed.

34. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call forwarding command.

35. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one calling feature includes a call transfer command.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein a party to be billed is the first client.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein a party to be billed is the second client.

38. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a SIP call request message;

adding a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server identifier to identify a server sending the SIP call request message; and

transmitting the SIP call request message and the header to a network gateway.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the gateway is configured to complete the call if the header is present and not complete the call if the header is not present.

40. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the method comprising:

receiving a call request message;

checking the call request message for a server identifier in a security header appended to the call request message, the server identifier identifying a server that forwarded the call request message; and

completing the call based on existence of the server identifier in the security header.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the call is completed if the security header is present.

42. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein the call is not completed if the header is not present.

43. (currently amended) A system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system comprising:

a SIP server configured to:

challenge a device that originated the call by requesting the device to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself,[[;]]

process a SIP call request message received from the first client to determine an authentic originating client based on the authentication result,

~~the SIP server also being configured to~~ obtain a client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client; and

a network gateway coupled to the SIP server, the network gateway being configured to provide at least one of the first client and the second client conditional access to a public switched telephone network.

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the server transmits the SIP call request message to the network gateway if the client billing tag is obtained, and does not

transmit the call request message to the network gateway if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is configured to insert the client billing tag into the SIP call request message and transmit the call request message to the network gateway.

46. (original) The system of claim 45, further comprising a network operation support system coupled to the network gateway, the network gateway being configured to transmit the client billing tag to the network operation support system after the call is completed.

47. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server identifies the authentic originating client by evaluating a profile of the second client.

48. (original) The system of claim 47, wherein the profile includes information corresponding to at least one calling feature activated by the second client.

49. (previously presented) The network of claim 48, wherein the SIP server inserts a client billing tag corresponding to the second client based on the at least one calling feature.

50. (previously presented) The network of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is configured to add a header to the SIP call request message.

51. (previously presented) The network of claim 50, wherein the network gateway is configured to complete the call if the header is detected and not complete the call if the header is not detected.

52. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is SIP-telephone.

53. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first client is a SIP-telephone and the second client is a standard telephone coupled to a PSTN.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to the network gateway.

55. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to an enterprise gateway.

56. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP voicemail server.

57. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a SIP conferencing server.

58. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client is coupled to a DAL gateway.

59. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a client PBX system.

60. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first client or the second client includes a personal computer.

61. (currently amended) A server system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system comprising:

a database configured to store at least one client billing tag; and

a processor coupled to the database, the processor being programmed to:

challenge a device that originated the call by requesting the device to authenticate itself, whereby the device generates an authentication result as a result of authenticating itself,

process a call request message to identify an authentic originating client based on the authentication result, and

search the database to find the client billing tag corresponding to the authentic originating client, whereby the server system allows the call to be completed if the client

billing tag is obtained, and does not allow the call to be completed if the client billing tag cannot be obtained.

62. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is programmed to insert the client billing tag into the call request message.

63. (original) The system of claim 62, wherein the processor is programmed to transmit the call request message with the client billing tag to a network gateway.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

add a header to the SIP call request message, the header including a server identifier identifying the server system that forwards the call request message; and

transmit the call request message and header to a network gateway.

65. (canceled)

66. (currently amended) A network gateway system for placing a call between a first client and a second client, the system comprising:

a communications interface for establishing a call with a circuit switched network; and

a processor coupled to the communications interface, the processor being programmed to:[[,]]

receive a call request message;

check the call request message for existence of a security header appended to the call request message, the security header including a server identifier identifying a server that forwarded the call request message; and

complete the call based on the existence of the security header including the server identifier.

67. (previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the call is completed if the header exists.

68. (previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the call is not completed if the header does not exist.

69-74. (canceled)

75. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein authenticating the call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determining a password that corresponds to the user name,

performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.

76. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein authenticating the call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determining a password that corresponds to the user name,

performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.

77. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein authenticating the SIP call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determining a password that corresponds to the user name,

performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.

78. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein authenticating the SIP call request message includes:

receiving a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determining a password that corresponds to the user name,

performing a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determining whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.

79. (new) The system of claim 43, wherein the SIP server is further configured to:

receive a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determine a password that corresponds to the user name,

perform a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determine whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.

80. (new) The system of claim 61, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

receive a user name and the authentication result from the device,

determine a password that corresponds to the user name,

perform a hash function based on the user name and password, and

determine whether a result of the hash function matches the authentication result.